

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

J. CHAPMAN PETERSEN

34TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF THE CITY OF FAIRFAX;
AND PART OF FAIRFAX COUNTY
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COURTS OF JUSTICE
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

July 1, 2013

Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
1111 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 2321

Dear Governor McDonnell:

In recent weeks, I have read numerous reports regarding gifts your family reportedly received from Mr. Johnnie Williams and his company Star Scientific, Inc. The substance of these reports gives the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company, at least over the past two years. Few, if any, of these gifts were reported in the public disclosures that you (like all of us) must file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor's Mansion and the Governor's Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company. That is unacceptable.

I am writing you directly to ask that you come clean on this matter. If you or your family has received gifts of the type alleged, then you should disclose that fully and immediately. If those gifts are retail consumer items which you have retained for personal use, then you should return them immediately to the donor -- or sell them and donate the money to the Literary Fund. That is the only method by which the public can regain trust in your Office. Without that trust, there is no purpose in continuing to serve.

If you are unable to explain (or deny) these reports or return the items, then I humbly suggest that you should step down as Governor and permit the Lieutenant Governor to serve out the balance of your term, pursuant to Article V, Section 16 of the Virginia Constitution.

Sincerely,

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, Senate of Virginia

copy: Hon. William Bolling, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. William J. Howell, Speaker of the House of Delegates
Hon. Charles Colgan, President Pro Tem of the Senate